

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (Currently amended) Use of A decorated product comprising:
a non-decorative structural part, and
a decorative structural part affixed to a surface of the non-decorative structural part,
wherein the decorative part includes an article whose surface exhibits a composite material in full or in parts, the composite material consisting of that has a non-metallic substrate containing at least one polymer [[,] and a metallic layer present deposited thereon and deposited without applying an external current, the non-metallic substrate is not chemically pretreated before deposition of the metallic layer and the composite material having an adhesive strength of at least 4 N/mm², as decorative structural part.
2. (Currently amended) Use according to The product of claim 1 characterised in that the standard deviation of the adhesive strength at six different measured value points distributed over the surface of the composite material is maximum 25 % of the arithmetic mean.
item
3. (Currently amended) Use according to The product of claim 1 characterised in that
 - a) the surface of the article substrate is not chemically pretreated before the application of the metallic layer deposited without electric current; and
 - b) the metallic layer is not applied by thermal spraying, CVD, PVD or laser treatment.
4. (Currently amended) Use according to The product of claim 1 characterised in that the non-metallic substrate is the surface of the article decorative structural part.

5. (Currently amended) Use according to The product of claim 1 characterised in that the non-metallic substrate is not the surface of the article decorative structural part.

6. (Currently amended) Use according to The product of claim 1 characterised in that the boundary present between the non-metallic substrate and the metallic layer exhibits a roughness with an R_z value of maximum 35 μm .

7. (Currently amended) Use according to The product of claim 1 characterised in that the boundary present between the non-metallic substrate and the metallic layer exhibits a roughness with an R_a value of maximum 5 μm .

8. (Currently amended) Use according to The product of claim 1 characterised in that the non-metallic substrate contains at least one fibre-reinforced polymer, ~~in particular a polymer reinforced with carbon fibre and the diameter of the fibre is less than 10 μm~~ .

9. (Currently amended) Use according to claim 1 The product of claim 8 characterised in that the ~~non-metallic substrate contains at least one~~ fibre-reinforced polymer, ~~in particular is~~ a polymer reinforced with glass fibre and the diameter of the fibre is more than 10 μm .

10. (Currently amended) Use according to The product of claim 9 characterised in that the boundary present between the non-metallic substrate and the metallic layer exhibits a roughness with an R_a value of maximum 10 μm .

11. (Currently amended) Use according to The product of claim [[1]] 9 characterised in that the boundary present between the non-metallic substrate and the metallic layer exhibits a roughness with an R_z value of maximum 100 μm .

12. (Currently amended) Use according to The product of claim 1 characterised in that the polymer is selected from the group consisting of polyamide, polyvinyl chloride, polystyrene, epoxy resin, polyether ether ketone, polyoxymethylene, polyformaldehyde, polyacetal, polyurethane, polyether imide, polyphenyl sulphone, polyphenylene sulphide, polyarylamide, polycarbonate and polyimide.

13. ((Currently amended) ~~Use according to~~ The product of claim 1 characterised in that the metallic layer exhibits an adhesive strength of at least 12 N/mm².

14. (Currently amended) ~~Use according to~~ The product of claim 1 characterised in that the non-metallic substrate is polypropylene or polytetrafluoroethylene.

15. (Currently amended) ~~Use according to~~ The product of claim 1 characterised in that the standard deviation of the adhesive strength amounts to maximum 25 %, in particular maximum 15 %, of the arithmetic mean.

16. (Currently amended) ~~Use according to~~ The product of claim 1 characterised in that the metal layer deposited without electric current is a metal alloy or metal dispersion layer.

17. (Currently amended) ~~Use according to~~ The product of claim 1 characterised in that the metal layer deposited without external current is a copper, nickel or gold layer.

18. (Currently amended) ~~Use according to claim 1~~ The product of claim 16 characterised in that the metal dispersion layer deposited without external current is a copper, nickel or gold layer with embedded non-metallic particles.

19. (Currently amended) ~~Use according to~~ The product of claim 18 characterised in that the non-metallic particles exhibit a hardness of more than 1,500 HV and are selected from the group consisting of silicon carbide, corundum, diamond and tetraboron carbide.

20. (Currently amended) ~~Use according to~~ The product of claim 18 characterised in that the non-metallic particles exhibit friction-reducing properties and are selected from the group consisting of polytetrafluoroethylene, molybdenum sulphide, cubic boron nitride and tin sulphide.

21. (Currently amended) ~~Use according to~~ The product of claim 1 is a[[s]] casing, container, handle, cover, emblem, holder and decorative moulding.

Applicant(s) : Hartmut Sauer
Serial No. : 10/553,147
Filed : November 13, 2006
Page : 7 of 15

Attorney Docket No.: 68001-005US1

22. (New) The product of claim 1 is a cell-phone casing.
23. (New) The product of claim 8, wherein the fibre-reinforced polymer is a polymer reinforced with carbon fibre whose diameter is less than 10 μm .
24. (New) The product of claim 15, wherein the standard deviation of the adhesive strength amounts to maximum 15 % of the arithmetic mean.